

HISTORY OF THE ABIPONES.

429.

the family to the public celebration of victories. 203
 On his departure, he is dismissed by the women. 527
 with the usual percussion of the lips. In the 727
 same manner he enters the dwellings of the.
 other hordesmen, always accompanied by a 554
 crowd of boys. The office of crier, which the 756
 noble Abipones despise, is generally performed. 624
 by some juggler of advanced age and low birth.
 Meantime they furnish the house, appointed for 527
 the meeting, with a hasty apparatus. The 727.
 floor is covered with the skins of tigers and of
 kine, upon which the guests sit. A temporary 417
 erection is made of reeds, upon which they
 place the hairy scalps of their slain enemies, as
 trophies. When they prefer celebrating the
 victory without the tent in the open air, they
 hang these trophies upon spears fixed upright
 in the circle in which they sit. At sun-set, the 415
 persons invited all flock to the appointed place,
 where they sit down on the ground, having
 leathern vessels of mead set in the midst of
 them, though the drinking does not commence
 till about morning, the whole night being spent
 in chaunting their victories.

They never sing all at once, but only two at 527
 a time, always greatly varying their voices from 533
 high to low, one either taking up, or following. 727
 or interrupting the other, and sometimes
 accompanying him. Now one, now the other.